United Nations E/CN.15/2018/4*

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2018

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Twenty-seventh session
Vienna, 14–18 May 2018
Item 6 of the provisional agenda**
Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to fight transnational organized crime, in all its forms and manifestations, including new and emerging forms such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, and corruption. The report also provides information on international cooperation and technical assistance undertaken by the Office to combat transnational organized crime and corruption.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 26 April 2018.
** E/CN.15/2018/1.

V.18-01084 (E) 080318 090318

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2017/237. It provides information on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) related to item 6 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2018/1). It contains information on the activities of UNODC to curb transnational organized crime, including new and emerging forms of crime, and to fight corruption. The report also contains information on the activities of UNODC to promote international cooperation in criminal matters, including through the provision of technical assistance to Member States and the facilitation and hosting of meetings and events, as well as by using the Office's expertise to promote networking among law enforcement and judicial authorities to share experiences and expertise and forge partnerships. Prominence is given to action geared towards promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

II. Transnational organized crime

A. Working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention

2. Within the framework of its thematic programme, UNODC continued to assist States in implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention decided to continue the process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Sessions of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism were held in Vienna from 30 October to 1 November 2017 and from 21 to 23 March 2018, respectively.

3. During the reporting period, the Working Group on Firearms, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held their respective meetings for 2017. Each working group discussed the preparation of a questionnaire for the review of the implementation of each protocol under the prospective review mechanism, in addition to other substantive agenda items.

4. The Working Group on International Cooperation held its eighth meeting back-to-back with the tenth meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance in Vienna from 9 to 13 October 2017, with each sharing a joint agenda item on the preparation of the questionnaire for the review of implementation of the Convention.

B. Promoting adherence to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto

5. In 2017, UNODC provided pre-ratification support to Japan and pre-accession support to Fiji. Japan accepted the Organized Crime Convention, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Fiji acceded to the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

6. The actions taken by States during the reporting period to achieve adherence to the Convention and its supplementary Protocols may be summarized as follows: Fiji acceded to the Convention and Japan accepted it. Fiji and the State of Palestine acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and Japan accepted it. Côte d'Ivoire

and Fiji acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and Japan accepted it. Finally, Fiji acceded to the Firearms Protocol.

7. As at 9 February 2018, 189 States had become parties to the Convention; 173 to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 146 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and 115 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

C. Promoting the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, with a focus on fostering international cooperation

1. Organized Crime Convention

8. The Secretariat continued to develop the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) and to disseminate information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. As of February 2018, SHERLOC included more than 2,700 cases involving organized crime from 116 countries and more than 6,800 pieces of legislation from 197 countries.

9. From February 2017 to February 2018, SHERLOC was accessed by 186,990 users, indicating that the number of users is rising. The 10 States with the largest number of portal users were the United States of America, India, Peru, Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, the Philippines, Argentina, Colombia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. Global access and multilingualism are important goals for SHERLOC and, to that end, SHERLOC has been translated for use in all of the official languages of the United Nations. SHERLOC is also adaptable to all devices, enabling users to access it through mobile technologies.

11. The Office has expanded SHERLOC by adding new databases and functionalities, including a database on strategies and a database on treaties. The database on strategies contains strategic instruments relating to the regional and domestic implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, while the database on treaties contains information on the ratification status of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and other relevant legal instruments.

12. In order to assist Member States seeking to ratify, accede to or implement the Organized Crime Convention, the *Legislative Guides for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto* was updated pursuant to resolution 7/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention and has been published electronically on SHERLOC in English. The updated version of the *Legislative Guides* has been translated into all official languages of the United Nations and those language versions will also be made available on SHERLOC.

13. The Office has also continued to manage and update the directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the Organized Crime Convention on the SHERLOC platform. The directory will be expanded to include competent authorities for judicial cooperation in terrorism cases. Moreover, terrorism will be the fifteenth type of crime to be covered in the SHERLOC databases, which will include terrorism-related case law, legislation, bibliographic resources and national strategies against terrorism.

14. The Office continued to work on the collection of resources pertaining to drug control. It developed a new repository on drug control, which replaced the former "legal library" and is now administered under SHERLOC. The repository includes national legislation on drug control, as well as links to the directory of competent

national authorities under the 1988 Convention and the Organized Crime Convention and to the directory of competent national authorities responsible for issuing certificates and authorizations for the import and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and for regulating or enforcing national control over precursors and essential chemicals. The repository on drug control is linked to SHERLOC and constitutes a unique gateway to information related to drug control.

15. The Office also worked on the development of an additional component of SHERLOC, the external contributors interface, which is a new, simplified web-based tool for gathering comprehensive information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. The interface will provide focal points with access to password-protected accounts as a security measure. With such access, States parties will be able to easily and quickly input, update or verify national information on legislation and jurisprudence and provide analysis on key legal issues in their national legislation and case law. The Secretariat plans to launch the tool at the end of 2018.

16. During the reporting period, the Secretariat finalized its work on the redevelopment of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, a guidance tool designed to assist criminal justice practitioners in expeditiously drafting requests for mutual legal assistance. The tool was presented in the context of promotional and awareness-raising activities at a number of events, including the twenty-second Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors (Beijing, 10–15 September 2017), the meeting of the Criminal and Legal Affairs Subgroup of the Group of Eight Lyon-Roma Anti-Crime and Terrorism Group (3–5 October 2017) and the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (Republic of Korea, 15–17 November 2017). At the time of drafting the present report, UNODC was working towards making the tool available as an open resource on the UNODC website.

17. Through its Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC supported and contributed substantively to a national meeting on international judicial cooperation: mutual legal assistance and extradition, held in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3 and 4 May 2017. The meeting was organized in close coordination with the International Affairs Department of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and hosted senior officers from judicial authorities and legal officials from Tehran, Tabriz and the East Azerbaijan Province. The discussions revolved around practical and legal aspects of extradition and mutual legal assistance from both a national and international perspective.

18. A regional workshop on the promotion of cooperation among the countries in West and Central Asia to better address the international transfer of sentenced persons, organized under subprogramme 2 of the UNODC regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, was held in Bishkek on 7 and 8 September 2017.

19. UNODC held an expert group meeting in Vienna on 5 and 6 October 2017 to support the implementation of Conference resolution 8/1. Twenty-one experts from central authorities from all regions shared experiences and good practices on the roles and functions of central authorities, inter-agency cooperation, case management, resources and electronic evidence.

20. During the reporting period, representatives of UNODC trained experts from 46 States on the Organized Crime Convention, documenting a 33 per cent increase in knowledge among trainees as a result. The Office also developed modules on combating organized crime for the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. In that connection, UNODC organized two expert group meetings and initiated research on the nexus between organized crime and terrorism and the links between organized crime and cybercrime and organized crime and gender.

2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

21. UNODC continued to assist States parties in implementing the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through normative, policy support and operational work. At the global level, under its project Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Children's Fund, UNODC successfully carried out more than 100 activities addressing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants in 2017. The project also strengthened regional cooperation in criminal matters related to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, for example, through the organization of a workshop with the Ibero-American network of prosecutors against trafficking in persons, held in Colombia from 19 to 21 September 2017.

22. Through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, UNODC reached 735 practitioners, government officials and civil society representatives from 40 countries. In particular, in partnership with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Office conducted a regional workshop in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for national anti-trafficking coordinators of South-Eastern Europe with a focus on sexual exploitation and national referral mechanisms. UNODC also held judicial colloquiums in Algeria and Botswana.

23. The theme of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, observed on 30 July 2017, was "act to protect and assist trafficked persons". To mark the day, the Office organized a special screening of the film *Sold* for Permanent Missions in Vienna. The corresponding social media campaign, which included a message released worldwide on 30 July 2017 via the social media platform Thunderclap, generated a record reach of 73 million impressions worldwide. The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants also organized advocacy events such as the exhibition entitled "Hear their voices. Act to protect", which was presented in Bishkek, Brussels and Vienna on the occasion of the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2017 and United Nations Day on 24 October 2017 in order to draw attention to the testimonies of victims.

24. UNODC published a new issue paper on the international legal definition of trafficking in persons: consolidation of research findings and reflection on issues raised, which was launched at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

25. Furthermore, UNODC provided substantive support to the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held on 23 June 2017, as well as to the high-level meeting itself, which resulted in a political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

26. UNODC prepared a draft of the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in persons in armed conflict pursuant to Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) (S/2017/939). The report was before the Council at its 8111th meeting, held on 21 November 2017, at which the Council adopted resolution 2388 (2017).

27. UNODC continued to play a leading role and maintained its coordination functions within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, resulting in the joint development of products to harmonize anti-trafficking responses, such as Issue Brief 02 of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, on trafficking in persons in humanitarian crises.

28. UNODC continued to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which in 2017 supported 18 non-governmental partner organizations providing specialized assistance to around 3,000 victims of trafficking in persons in 18 countries, with grants totalling $403,447. In 2017, the Trust Fund raised a total of $1.66 million in

contributions, which are to be used for its third small grants programme, starting in 2018.

3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

29. UNODC continued to assist States parties in implementing the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol through normative, policy support and operational work. It reached over 200 practitioners through its technical assistance activities under the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, including a regional workshop on preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacity in examining security documents, held in South Africa.

30. The Office organized a Regional Expert Group Meeting on smuggling of migrants, held in Kenya from 13 to 15 December 2017, with the objective of drafting the first plan of action and road map for concerted action against the smuggling of migrants in East Africa.

31. The Office also organized the third Regional Expert Group Meeting on cross-border cooperation and financial investigations and prosecutions in South-Eastern Europe, with a focus on disruption of financial flows deriving from the smuggling of migrants in the region. The meeting was held in Croatia from 18 to 20 October 2017 and was attended by policymakers and practitioners from 14 countries.

32. A regional training workshop to promote international judicial cooperation against the smuggling of migrants by sea affecting the Mediterranean Sea was held in Malta from 9 to 11 May 2017. It was the fourth in a series of transregional workshops on the smuggling of migrants by sea, and gathered prosecutors, judges and central authorities from countries of the Middle East and North Africa and the European Union, as well as from the European Commission, the Mediterranean Operation Sophia of the European Union Naval Force and UNODC, to share good practices, learn how to make better use of judicial cooperation in migrant smuggling cases and learn about the tools available for that purpose.

33. A subregional workshop to promote international cooperation in cases of migrant smuggling was held in Tunis from 25 to 27 September 2017. It brought together experts, including prosecutors, police officers and officials of competent Ministries, from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and the Sudan.

34. The provision of technical assistance also included a "gaps and needs assessment mission" on the smuggling of migrants in the Maldives, in which amendments to legislation relating to the smuggling of migrants were proposed.

35. During the reporting period, the Office continued to develop modules on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants for the E4J initiative, including educational components for primary and secondary schools and universities. In that connection, UNODC organized a workshop in collaboration with the European University Institute entitled "When smuggling goes wrong: from a crime against State sovereignty to a crime against persons". The objective of the workshop was to strengthen partnerships between UNODC and academia, gain a better understanding of the status of research on the smuggling of migrants and develop recommendations on the topic. UNODC also initiated a research effort on the role of women in the smuggling of migrants.

36. On the margins of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission, the Office launched a new policy tool: an issue paper on the concept of "financial or other material benefit" in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. The issue paper examines legislation and case law in order to gain a comparative perspective on how the "financial or other material benefit" element of migrant smuggling as defined in the Protocol has been applied. UNODC further developed its case law database on the smuggling of migrants, under SHERLOC, which included 758 cases from 39 jurisdictions as of December 2017.

37. UNODC provided support, through the Global Migration Group, for the consultative process of the General Assembly on the development of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. In particular, the Office supported the fifth of six informal thematic sessions of the General Assembly on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, which was devoted to the theme of smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims; the session was held in Vienna on 4 and 5 September 2017. Furthermore, the Office supported the second informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and moderated a panel discussion on the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, held in Geneva on 11 October 2017. Representatives of UNODC also took part in a stocktaking meeting held in Mexico in December 2017, which marked the end of the preparatory phase of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

4. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition

38. UNODC continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol. Through its Global Programme on Firearms, UNODC also continued its efforts to strengthen Member States' criminal justice responses and to promote international cooperation and exchange of information in relation to trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

39. UNODC joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization in organizing a five-day simultaneous cross-border police operation named TRIGGER III in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Nigeria, leading to the seizure of 130 firearms, including 49 Kalashnikov-type assault rifles, and several rounds of ammunition, as well as the initiation of 50 international tracing requests. Similarly, UNODC also participated in and contributed to the Europol Joint Action Days 2017. Sixty-eight European Union and non-European Union countries participated in the operations, which resulted in the seizure of 136 firearms, 7,095 rounds of ammunition and a wide range of other illicit goods and contraband.

40. To increase international cooperation and information exchange, UNODC continued to promote regular exchanges among firearms control and criminal justice practitioners through a community of practitioners. In that regard, UNODC organized several regional meetings, bringing together more than 60 practitioners from 11 countries in Africa (Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco and the Niger) and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) to share and discuss experiences, good practices and lessons learned relating to the investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. UNODC also initiated an effort to compile investigated and prosecuted firearms trafficking cases, which will be published in a digest of firearms trafficking cases that places particular focus on international cooperation.

41. UNODC continued to roll out its comprehensive training curriculum on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in firearms and other firearms-related crimes and trained around 60 officials from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali in the course of the reporting period.

D. Networking to combat transnational organized crime

1. Law enforcement networking

42. Under the UNODC Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime (BENATOC) within the framework of the "networking the networks" initiative, UNODC continued to build stronger operational cooperation links between existing international and regional law enforcement

cooperation centres and organizations, as well as with the networks of financial intelligence units. UNODC also supported countries in a number of regions to strengthen and/or establish regional cooperation centres to promote crime-related intelligence-sharing and coordination of complex multilateral operations targeting all forms of organized crime and illicit financial flows.

43. The Office continued to engage with countries of the South Asia region to advance their initiative to establish a South Asian regional intelligence and coordination centre on transnational organized crime. Within the framework of the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative of BENAFOC, UNODC continued to facilitate networking between law enforcement training and educational institutions for exchange of curricula, training materials, tools, training methodologies, best practices and trainers.

44. In August 2017, the Government of Mexico, in coordination with the Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol), hosted the third meeting under the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative, which focused on training initiatives related to the investigation of money-laundering by means of cryptocurrencies, countering illicit arms flows and other topics.

45. Following the official start of the new programme entitled "CRIMJUST: strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)", the Office implemented, with the financial support of the European Union, a total of 62 activities aimed at improving the technical capacity of criminal justice actors to fight organized crime along the cocaine route, benefiting more than 1,600 officials.

46. Implemented by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, CRIMJUST provided technical assistance to 12 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Panama and Peru). The main domains of assistance included, inter alia, capacity-building: strengthening the capacities of criminal justice institutions (law enforcement and the judiciary) to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate drug-trafficking and related organized crime cases; fostering regional and interregional cooperation between criminal justice institutions (law enforcement and the judiciary); and enhancing the institutional integrity and accountability of criminal justice institutions.

47. CRIMJUST also enabled the launching in 2017 of an interregional operation led by intelligence officials involving 13 countries that culminated in the seizure of more than 55 tons of drugs, the dismantling of 20 clandestine laboratories and more than 350 arrests.

2. Judicial networking

48. The UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime continued to foster international and regional judicial cooperation in criminal matters, in particular by supporting regional judicial cooperation networks. In 2017, the Programme continued to support the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime (WACAP), the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.

49. In 2017, UNODC continued to support the WACAP train-the-trainer programme on international cooperation in criminal matters, which was aimed at facilitating knowledge-transfer among peers; the train-the-trainer sessions were delivered to 333 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials and INTERPOL officers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

50. WACAP cooperated with other programmes and networks to promote international cooperation in criminal matters and enhance the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate and prosecute different forms of transnational organized crime. The CRIMJUST project and WACAP jointly organized a training session for anti-drug agencies of Nigeria and Ghana to share good practices on the prosecution of drug trafficking cases and enhance cross-border cooperation, which was held from 26 to 28 September 2017.

51. WACAP and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa held a joint meeting in Senegal from 24 to 26 October 2017. The participants included more than 40 officials from all countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Commission. They discussed the challenges of extradition within the ECOWAS region and obstacles encountered in the seizing, freezing, confiscation and management of criminal proceeds.

52. A regional cooperation workshop organized by the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants and WACAP on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants was held in Vienna on 14 and 15 December 2017 and was attended by experts and WACAP contact points from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, the Gambia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

53. An interregional workshop on the use of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings was held in Tashkent in 2017. The workshop was attended by 43 judges and lecturers from judicial training centres in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

54. The Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, modelled on WACAP and other such networks, was launched in Khartoum on 1 and 2 November 2017 by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, together with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and with the support of UNODC. It will be led by ICGLR and UNODC, with political support from the Office of the Special Envoy, and will cover 12 States (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia).

55. An informal meeting of regional judicial cooperation networks was held in Vienna on 4 October 2017. The Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons, the European Judicial Network, the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, WACAP, the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network and the Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus were represented. Participants highlighted the benefits of greater collaboration, information-sharing and joint participation in each other's activities. It was agreed to establish an informal coordination mechanism to ensure that the networks would meet at least once a year.

E. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of trafficking in cultural property

56. In cooperation with various partners, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), INTERPOL and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Member States in order to strengthen their criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property, including by disseminating the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences and its practical assistance tool.

57. Since May 2017, UNODC has been involved in capacity-building activities in support of officials from Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Pakistan, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

58. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/186, UNODC continued to receive from and disseminate to Member States information on the designation of contact points to facilitate international cooperation within the application of the Organized Crime Convention, for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property.

59. UNODC continued to work closely with its partners, including UNESCO and INTERPOL, on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), on safeguarding Iraqi and Syrian cultural heritage, and on Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), on destruction of and trafficking in cultural property by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict.

F. Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of cybercrime

60. The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime continued to assist in developing the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate all types of cybercrime in Central America, East Africa, Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and South-East Asia. The Programme supported Member States by providing high-level briefings and training to more than 90 parliamentarians on cybercrime investigations, in particular cases involving online child sexual exploitation and abuse, digital forensics, cryptocurrency investigation and equipment for front-line officers.

61. An expert group meeting jointly organized by UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in cooperation with the International Association of Prosecutors was held in Vienna on 12 and 13 February 2018. The aim of the meeting was to establish the basis for the development of a practical guide for central authorities, prosecutors and investigators to facilitate the obtaining of electronic evidence from foreign jurisdictions in investigations related to counter-terrorism and cross-border organized crime. The meeting offered participants the opportunity to share domestic laws and guides, as well as examples of actual cases in which electronic evidence was obtained from communication service providers located in foreign jurisdictions.

62. The third meeting of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 April 2017; its fourth meeting is to be held from 3 to 5 April 2018. In accordance with Commission resolution 26/4, as well as the Expert Group's 2018–2021 workplan as approved by its extended Bureau, the meeting provided a platform to discuss the first two main topics of the workplan, legislation and frameworks, and criminalization.

III. Corruption

A. Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

63. The seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017. The Conference was attended by almost 2,000 participants representing 160 Member States and many international and non-governmental organizations. During the conference, 32 special events were held addressing various anti-corruption issues. Action taken by the Conference included the adoption of the following resolutions: (a) resolution 7/1, on strengthening mutual legal assistance for international

cooperation and asset recovery; (b) resolution 7/2, on preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (c) resolution 7/3, on promoting technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; (d) resolution 7/4, on enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption; (e) resolution 7/5, on promoting preventive measures against corruption; (f) resolution 7/6, on follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption; (g) resolution 7/7, on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States; and (h) resolution 7/8, on corruption in sport. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted decision 7/1, entitled "Work of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference" (see CAC/COSP/2017/14).

1. Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

64. At its third session, held in Doha in 2009, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 3/1, entitled "Review mechanism", establishing the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Implementation Review Group, which oversees the work of the Mechanism, held its eighth session from 19 to 23 June 2017 and its resumed eighth session on 7 and 8 November 2017 in Vienna. The Group considered, inter alia, the implementation of the Convention, the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, technical assistance, and financial and budgetary matters.

65. Furthermore, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, entitled "Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption", the Secretariat conducted a briefing for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the eighth session of the Implementation Review Group. The briefing was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference.

66. UNODC provided technical and substantive services to the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Implementation Review Group in 2017, the second year of the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. Those services included providing training and assistance to governmental experts from States parties under review and reviewing States, supporting the country reviews and producing thematic reports on the implementation trends and related technical assistance needs identified during the review process. In that connection, the Secretariat published the second edition of a study entitled *State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: criminalization, law enforcement and international cooperation*, which contains an in-depth analysis of the thematic findings from the country reviews that had been completed at the time of drafting of the study. The Secretariat also prepared a note entitled "Set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (CAC/COSP/2017/5). The note provides an overview of the recommendations made in the country reviews.

67. At the time of drafting of the present report, 162 executive summaries of the country reports under the first cycle and 4 under the second cycle of the Mechanism had been completed and published. UNODC also provided technical assistance in response to the observations emanating from the reviews, including through the drafting of action plans, anti-corruption strategies and legislation, capacity-building and other ad hoc activities.

68. Since 2010, a total of $14,086,600 in voluntary contributions in support of Review Mechanism activities have been received from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, the

Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In-kind contributions have also been provided by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.[1]

2. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

69. At its eighth meeting, held in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption addressed the implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption". The Working Group also further discussed the thematic topics for inclusion in the provisional agenda of its next session, on good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption, agreed upon at its seventh meeting, held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 (see CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/5), which included education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts (art. 13, para. 1 (c), of the Convention against Corruption) and integrity in criminal justice institutions (arts. 7, 8 and 11 of the Convention against Corruption).

70. At its seventh session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption", in which it decided, inter alia, that the Working Group should continue its work and hold at least two meetings prior to the eighth session of the Conference. The Conference also adopted resolution 7/5, entitled "Promoting preventive measures against corruption", in which it decided that the next meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption should include the topics of (a) the use and effectiveness of asset declarations systems and (b) conflicts of interest.

3. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery

71. At its eleventh meeting, held in Vienna on 24 and 25 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery discussed, inter alia, the proactive and timely sharing of information, in accordance with article 56 of the Convention. It also discussed good practices for identifying victims of corruption and the parameters for compensating them, in accordance with Conference resolution 6/2. The Working Group meeting also served as a forum for discussions on capacity-building and technical assistance in asset recovery. In that regard, the Group welcomed a briefing provided by representatives of UNODC on technical assistance and capacity-building, including assistance provided by the joint World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

72. At the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties, UNODC launched a publication entitled "Effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets" which was a continuation of the Office's work on the management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets, and on identifying good practices in the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets in support of sustainable development. At the same session, the Conference adopted resolution 7/1, entitled "Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery", in which it decided that the Working Group on Asset Recovery should continue its work by, inter alia, (a) gathering information on and best practices related to the identification and compensation of victims; (b) conducting analyses of third-party challenges; (c) collecting data on best practices in the timely sharing of information between States; and (d) conducting an analysis of how communication

[1] Information as at 18 January 2018.

and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks could be improved.

4. Experts to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

73. The sixth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 November 2017. At the meeting, the experts took stock of country reviews on the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention against Corruption, including the findings on challenges, successes and good practices, as well as the lessons learned and technical assistance needs. The experts invited States parties to further assist one another in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases by effectively using the Convention against Corruption as a legal basis for international cooperation. The experts also discussed international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences under the Convention, electronic tools and systems, and an update by UNODC of tools and services to promote international cooperation.

B. Promoting ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. Tools and knowledge-building

74. UNODC continued to develop and disseminate guides, handbooks and other tools. During the seventh session of the Conference, UNODC launched two publications: the *Handbook on Anti-Corruption Measures in Prisons* and an updated edition of the study *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation*. UNODC, through the StAR Initiative, also launched the "Guidelines for efficient recovery of stolen assets",[2] in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

75. In partnership with the International Olympic Committee, UNODC launched a publication entitled *UNODC IOC Study on Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation* to support States in strengthening their legislative frameworks in the area of integrity in sports.

76. The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector entitled "The fight against corruption" is now available in 23 languages, and 247,500 users have taken the course to date.

77. The Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal received a total of 54,488 page views in 2017 and at the time of drafting of the present report contained 56,068 legal provisions.

78. UNODC also continued its efforts to provide regional and country-specific resources. In 2017, the joint UNODC-UNDP Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project published the *Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Advocate's Toolkit* in collaboration with the Pacific Youth Council. UNODC also worked on the development of a handbook on foreign bribery and international cooperation in South-East Asia. In Colombia, UNODC developed an online database with case studies on how businesses address the challenge of corruption.

2. Provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

79. UNODC carried out a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels. For instance, UNODC field-based anti-corruption

[2] See https://guidelines.assetrecovery.org/guidelines.

advisers played an important role in providing rapidly deployable professional expertise to deliver on-site guidance.

80. UNODC deploys advisers with regional responsibilities for Central America and the Caribbean, the Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia, and West and Central Africa. A senior global adviser is based in Vienna and advisers with a national focus are based in El Salvador, Guyana and Qatar. Additionally, UNODC field offices implemented projects on the ground in 12 States and Kosovo.[1]

81. UNODC continues to receive requests from States seeking to improve their legislation to prevent and fight corruption, often based on the recommendations made on the basis of the country reviews. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted nine States in the drafting or amending of their anti-corruption legislation.

Investigation and prosecution of corruption

82. UNODC worked with States to build capacity in the criminal justice sector, including by providing training programmes covering topics such as abuse of power, financial investigations, mutual legal assistance and special investigative techniques to investigators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials from 23 States.

83. In addition, UNODC provided legislative assistance to four States in the drafting of whistle-blower protection laws and organized training workshops on whistle-blower and witness protection in five States. Furthermore, UNODC supported the Asian Football Confederation in the development of its new whistle-blower policy.

84. UNODC supported efforts to combat corruption and money-laundering, including through training workshops held in 12 States on investigations and prosecutions and legislative drafting assistance. In the Pacific region, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering jointly delivered a regional training programme on money-laundering attended by participants from five States.

85. UNODC worked with law enforcement officials in six States to strengthen integrity, including by assisting in the drafting of standard operating procedures and in developing a corruption risk mapping methodology and institutional integrity strategies. Furthermore, as part of the CRIMJUST programme, UNODC held an initial workshop in January 2017 focusing on institutional integrity and accountability.

Judicial integrity

86. As part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC worked towards the establishment of a global judicial integrity network, which is to be launched in April 2018 at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. Since its inception, more than 4,000 judges and other justice sector stakeholders from a total of 155 countries have been reached through the Global Programme, with more than 340 judges from 117 countries benefiting from a multitude of capacity-building events.

87. UNODC held seven regional preparatory meetings for the establishment of the global judicial integrity network, translated a number of existing resources on judicial integrity into additional languages and began developing a judicial ethics training package, including an e-learning course and a trainer's manual.

88. In addition, UNODC provided technical assistance on judicial integrity to the judiciaries of nine States, including in reviewing and amending codes of ethics, assessing judicial integrity mechanisms and delivering training and technical tools.

[1] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Prevention of corruption

89. Prevention of corruption continues to be a crucial element of the Office's work. UNODC assisted nine States in developing and implementing national anti-corruption strategies.

90. UNODC also supported a number of efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the public sector. For instance, UNODC assisted four States in drafting access-to-information laws and worked with Vanuatu on raising awareness of its access-to-information bill. In Cambodia, UNODC delivered training to various national authorities on managing conflicts of interest and asset declarations for public officials.

91. In South-East Asia, UNODC conducted a series of regional and national workshops on risk assessment and mitigation of corruption in public procurement. UNODC also trained public officials in Panama on the topic of public procurement.

92. UNODC worked to mainstream corruption prevention into its overall work. It held training sessions at two regional events on the links between corruption and drug trafficking, and UNODC representatives made presentations at regional and global events in five States as well as with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on the links between the financing of terrorism and corruption. In addition, training programmes addressing the links between corruption and organized crime were delivered in three States.

93. In the area of integrity in sport, UNODC supported the anti-match-fixing project of Italy. UNODC, the International Olympic Committee, the Council of Europe, OECD and the United Kingdom supported the creation of an initiative named the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport. UNODC also provided training workshops on preventing corruption in sport in Viet Nam.

94. UNODC continued to mainstream anti-corruption efforts into work of the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. It also continued its ongoing work with wildlife management authorities in three States to carry out corruption risk assessments and develop and implement corruption risk mitigation strategies.

95. UNODC also made strides in the fight against corruption in the private sector. For instance, with the support of the Siemens Integrity Initiative, the Office implemented a project in Colombia focused on public-private partnerships and strengthening the legislative framework related to the fight against corruption in the private sector. At the regional level, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project developed a code of conduct and toolkit for the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization, and UNODC delivered the first of a series of workshops in South-Eastern Europe on combating corruption in the private sector through collective action with civil society organizations.

Youth, education and civil society

96. UNODC continued to implement two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative and the E4J initiative. ACAD developed a model university course on the Convention against Corruption, which has been made available online in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish; a Russian-language version is under development. In addition, ACAD continued to foster a network of academics involved in anti-corruption education, including by holding a regional meeting for academics from the Asia-Pacific region.

97. In partnership with the E4J initiative, UNODC worked to build a culture of lawfulness among children and youth through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption. For instance, the E4J initiative developed a guide for organizers of model United Nations events in relation to topics such as corruption and non-electronic educational games, including on the subject of anti-corruption, for

schoolchildren at the secondary level, and university-level modules to support academics in teaching and researching anti-corruption-related topics. The E4J initiative also held conferences, workshops and seminars on education-related topics in seven States.

98. In the Pacific region, UNODC worked to raise awareness of issues surrounding corruption among young people and to encourage them to take active leadership roles in the fight against corruption. UNODC held workshops in Tonga and the Pacific region to promote and build the capacity of young women to participate in anti-corruption efforts.

99. UNODC also worked to promote the role of civil society in combating corruption, including by organizing a workshop for investigative journalists from West Africa aimed at building the capacity of journalists to investigate corruption. Globally, UNODC continued to expand its outreach efforts to civil society partners, including by holding training workshops on the Implementation Review Mechanism.

International cooperation and asset recovery

100. UNODC continued to maintain a list of designated central authorities responsible for requests for mutual legal assistance in accordance with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention. At the time of drafting of the present report, the list contained information on authorities designated by 129 States.

101. Capacity-building workshops on international cooperation were held regionally in Central America and the Caribbean, South-East Asia and East Africa. In addition, UNODC worked to redevelop the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool to make it more user-friendly, expand its functionality and integrate additional features.

102. UNODC provided assistance to national institutions through the StAR Initiative to strengthen their capacity to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return assets involved in cases of corruption. More than 20 countries, as well as several asset recovery forums and regional networks, received assistance through the StAR Initiative. In addition, the StAR Initiative worked with a number of jurisdictions through regional and/or international organizations in areas such as capacity-building and technical assistance.

103. Additionally, the StAR Initiative is working on a new edition of the publication entitled *The Puppet Masters. How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It* in order to bring it up to date with new cases and developments in the area of beneficial ownership.

3. Cooperation with other entities

104. UNODC works closely with other assistance providers, international organizations and entities. During the reporting period, the Office worked with OECD, the Group of 20, the Group of Seven, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, the European Union, the Council of Europe and numerous other organizations and entities.

105. UNODC continued to coordinate its efforts within the United Nations system, including by working closely on projects with UNDP, the United Nations Global Compact and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Joint projects such as the StAR Initiative, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and CRIMJUST provided significant technical assistance and new tools and resources to States parties and stakeholders.

4. Meetings and special events

106. UNODC organized a number of major meetings and special events in order to raise awareness and coordinate efforts in the fight against corruption, some of which are highlighted in the present report. In follow-up to the United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016, UNODC organized two major regional

workshops to fast-track the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, in South-East Asia and East Africa, respectively. Both workshops brought together government and civil society representatives to identify priority areas and discuss recommendations on the way forward. UNODC is planning to expand such regional efforts to other regions and to follow up with concrete activities at the regional and national levels.

107. UNODC co-hosted the Conference on Promoting International Cooperation in Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Enhancing Asset Recovery to Foster Sustainable Development, held in Abuja from 5 to 7 June 2017. The conference brought together representatives of government, civil society, the private sector and international organizations and highlighted the importance of understanding illicit flows in commercial transactions, asset recovery and international cooperation.

108. The StAR Initiative, together with INTERPOL, serviced the seventh conference of the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, which was attended by delegates from 45 countries and five regional networks. As a follow-up to the United Kingdom Anti-Corruption Summit, the StAR Initiative also supported the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery, which gathered more than 250 participants from 26 States, including representatives of international organizations, civil society and the media.

109. In addition, UNODC participated in a number of conferences and events organized by States and other partners, including the Business 20, the European Union, INTERPOL, OECD, Transparency International, the World Economic Forum and numerous others.

IV. Recommendations

110. Through ratifying and acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, as well as the Convention against Corruption, Member States have taken vital steps to ensure and enhance their ability to prevent and combat organized crime, including transnational crime, and to tackle corruption and recover valuable State assets. Those steps also contribute to the promotion of the rule of law and better governance structures, effectively helping to build trust between people and their Governments. It is therefore vital that Member States continue to support the ongoing process of establishing the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and to actively participate in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention against Corruption. In that regard, it is also vital to ensure that predictable and reliable funding is in place for the functioning of those mechanisms, as well as for the convening of working groups and workshops in support of the implementation of those conventions by Member States.

United Nations E/CN.15/2018/5*

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 March 2018

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Twenty-seventh session
Vienna, 14–18 May 2018
Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda**
Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism

Technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made in 2017 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in supporting Member States in the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, as well as the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The report also highlights key achievements of the Office in delivering technical assistance on the legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism while responding to emerging challenges and evolving needs of Member States. The report concludes with a set of recommendations, including on the need for enhanced support to meet those challenges, for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 26 April 2018.
** E/CN.15/2018/1.

V.18-01241 (E) 150318 160318

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I. Introduction

1. The mandate, technical expertise, field-level operational capacity and professional networks relating to various types of crime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) place it in a unique position to address the increasingly complex and multidimensional nature of terrorism in a coherent and comprehensive manner.

2. The present report covers major activities undertaken by UNODC, including through its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in 2017. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted Member States and regional organizations in their efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in line with the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Office's support was focused in particular on helping Member States accede to, ratify and implement the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism and develop efficient criminal justice responses that meet human rights and rule of law standards.

3. The Office's mandate regarding counter-terrorism technical assistance was reiterated in General Assembly resolution 72/123, on measures to eliminate international terrorism; 72/180, on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; 72/194, on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism; and 72/196, on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity.

4. More specifically, in its resolution 72/194, the General Assembly requested UNODC to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and in reintegrating children formerly associated with armed groups and terrorist groups. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the Office to assist Member States, in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism in order to promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists.

5. Furthermore, the Security Council adopted several resolutions related to immediate terrorist threats, which are also addressed by UNODC through the provision of specialized technical assistance. Those include resolution 2341 (2017), on terrorist threats against critical infrastructure; resolution 2347 (2017), on the destruction of cultural heritage and the smuggling of cultural property by terrorist groups in situations of armed conflict; resolution 2354 (2017), on countering terrorist narratives; resolution 2368 (2017), reaffirming the sanctions regime against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh); and resolution 2370 (2017), on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons.

6. In addition, the Council adopted resolution 2396 (2017), focused on terrorist fighters returning and relocating to their countries of origin or nationality, or to third countries. The Council recognized the expertise and technical assistance provided by UNODC to Member States to counter this phenomenon, in particular to facilitate international cooperation on judicial matters related to terrorism, and requested UNODC to continue providing technical support to Member States, inter alia, for the development and implementation of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, including in the context of foreign terrorist fighters.

7. UNODC remained one of the key contributors to the implementation of pillar III of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; 50 per cent of the projects under that pillar were being implemented by the Office. The Office also contributed significantly to the implementation of the foreign terrorist fighter capacity-building plan of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

8. UNODC is currently the only United Nations entity with the capacity to deploy field-based experts with technical knowledge and practical experience in the various

elements that comprise acts of terrorism and other related crimes. Throughout 2017, the Office further strengthened its field presence by recruiting terrorism prevention experts based in Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Thailand and Uzbekistan, who provide expertise and deliver assistance related to countering terrorism nationally and regionally.

II. Delivery of technical assistance

9. Since 2003, UNODC has been providing legal and capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States in the ratification, incorporation into legislation and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and in the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

10. Increased donor support in 2017 led to the expansion of geographical coverage of the Office's work on terrorism prevention. In particular, UNODC assisted countries in the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Central, South and South-East Asia, Central America and South-Eastern Europe. The Office also developed and will soon start implementing additional projects for Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria and Tunisia, as well as for South Africa, the Lake Chad region and a number of Asian countries.

A. Technical assistance activities

1. Ratification and legislative assistance

11. In 2017, the Office continued to promote the 19 international legal instruments related to terrorism and contributed to 24 additional ratifications by Member States in receipt of its assistance.

12. Since it entered into force in 2016, an increasing number of States, including Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Madagascar in 2017, have ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

13. Legislative assistance was provided to several Member States, including Benin, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen.

14. In the case of Yemen, UNODC supported several national agencies in the drafting of counter-terrorism legislation in line with international standards. A national committee in Yemen was established to expedite the finalization of the draft law. The Government of Cameroon also received assistance in amending its national counter-terrorism legislation to meet the requirements of relevant Security Council resolutions. As a result, Cameroon amended, inter alia, the military justice code so as to exclude juveniles from the competence of military courts in terrorism cases. Furthermore, UNODC advised Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the legislative implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

15. UNODC continued to promote the important role of parliamentarians in preventing terrorism, for example, by organizing visits to Madrid, Paris and Vienna by representatives of the Parliament of Egypt.

16. The Office further strengthened its collaboration with parliamentary associations, including by co-organizing regional and subregional meetings hosted by national parliaments with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). The Executive Director of UNODC addressed the 137th IPU Assembly, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, in October 2017. In addition, UNODC and IPU launched a joint initiative on the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism at a conference for parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa on the challenges posed by extremism leading to

terrorism and preventive criminal justice responses, hosted by the Parliament of Egypt in Aswan, Egypt, from 31 January to 2 February 2017.

17. UNODC was also represented at the eleventh Plenary Session of PAM in Porto, Portugal, in February 2017, and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, in March 2017. In addition, the Office established contacts with the newly created Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), who visited the UNODC Executive Director in November 2017.

2. Capacity-building to implement counter-terrorism legislation

18. The Office provided capacity-building assistance in several specialized counter-terrorism efforts. Among the top priorities in that regard were the criminal justice aspects of addressing the threats posed by the financing of terrorism, returning and relocating terrorist fighters, improvised explosive devices, terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure and the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist recruitment and incitement.

19. National capacity-building assistance was provided to, inter alia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Yemen. In total, the Office assisted 50 Member States and carried out over 140 national and regional activities through which 4,025 criminal justice officials were trained, including 1,040 women.

20. Ongoing initiatives were complemented by several new technical assistance projects. In addition to the existing bilateral technical assistance plans for Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, support for Iraq to restore criminal justice and law enforcement institutions in the territories liberated from ISIL became a top priority. In addition, UNODC further expanded its technical assistance to the Sahel countries, for example, by initiating counter-terrorism capacity-building activities in support of Supreme Courts of the Sahel countries and tailored counter-terrorism action plans for Burkina Faso and Mauritania. UNODC further advanced the implementation of the multi-year partnership between Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for strengthening the capacity of Nigerian criminal justice officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases in accordance with the rule of law and human rights. In Asia, the Office initiated a comprehensive set of new projects, including a project in partnership with INTERPOL on improving border management. In Central Asia, UNODC advanced the establishment of a regional network to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

(a) Building the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related cases

21. The capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related cases in line with human rights standards and rule of law standards, as well as the latest technological developments and methods, is essential for countering terrorism successfully and sustainably.

22. The Office held a total of 36 national training activities on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases for Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, as well as regional events for the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and the Sahel region.

23. UNODC also offered capacity-building assistance in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of specific types of terrorist activities, including through

national workshops for Chad and the Niger on crime-scene management. Some of the workshops focused on the use of special investigation techniques, including a workshop for Lebanon on advanced open-source investigations, data and criminal intelligence analysis techniques.

24. The Office also provided instrumental assistance to requesting Member States on investigating and prosecuting cases concerning foreign terrorist fighters. For example, a cross-regional training session for countries of South and South-East Asia was held in Manila from 7 to 9 November 2017, and national workshops for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,[1] the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

25. In sub-Saharan Africa, UNODC successfully supported Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria in establishing national specialized counter-terrorism units for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases. Work on a Nigerian counter-terrorism investigations manual progressed well, and included the holding of a peer review meeting in Vienna in November 2017.

(b) Suppressing the financing of terrorism

26. Suppressing the financing of terrorism is a critical priority. As the methods and actors involved in such financing change continuously, national authorities need to be able to draw on the latest knowledge to efficiently counteract it.

27. UNODC worked to further strengthen national capabilities to suppress the financing of terrorism, in line with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, relevant Security Council resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations. As the Chair of the Working Group on Countering the Financing of Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, UNODC cooperated closely with relevant entities such as CTED, the International Monetary Fund and the Financial Action Task Force.

28. UNODC activities included those related to capacity-building in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism financing-related cases, and to disrupting terrorist financial networks in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal and Tunisia.

29. Asset freezing, an important tool to counter the financing of terrorism, was the focus of country-level assistance to Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and was the main topic of a regional workshop for countries of South and South-East Asia. Some of the events held in that connection addressed, inter alia, countering the financing of terrorism by preventing the financing of weapons of mass destruction.

30. UNODC continued to apply the proven learning method of carrying out mock investigations into the financing of terrorism, including at four workshops held in Rabat in October 2017 as part of the second phase of the project to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism in Morocco.

31. The Office also supported the efforts of some States to respond to the use of digital currencies by terrorist groups, including by holding a specialized training session on the subject in Cairo from 2 to 4 October 2017, and continued its collaboration with the Inter-Institutional Committee to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and its Financing of Colombia by supporting the organization of six sessions of the Committee in 2017.

32. As a result of its work to fulfil other related mandates, UNODC is well placed to assist Governments in their efforts to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, including through the illicit sale of cultural heritage in the form of movable property. In 2017, the Executive Director of UNODC briefed the Security Council on the Office's work to combat trafficking in cultural property at

[1] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

two open debates of the Council on the topic "Maintenance of international peace and security: destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict", held on 24 March and 30 November 2017. To address the illicit sale of antiquities by terrorist groups, UNODC worked closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Furthermore, the Office contributed substantively to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) (S/2017/969). Other activities included a workshop for Iraq (Beirut, 21–23 January 2017) and UNODC participation in a European Union high-level meeting on protecting cultural heritage from terrorism and mass atrocities (New York, 21 September 2017).

33. Furthermore, the *World Drug Report 2017*, published by UNODC, contains a chapter dedicated to the theme of analysing the links between drug trafficking and other forms of crime, including terrorism. It expresses concerns about the growing involvement of terrorist groups in illicit drug sales in some regions, and identifies the need for more research and capacity-building in that regard.

34. In addition, UNODC held two expert group meetings related to the financing of terrorism in Vienna in 2017, one in April, which brought together experts to identify good practices in assessing the risks posed by the financing of terrorism, and one in November, on interrupting the financing and acquisition of critical parts for improvised explosive devices.

(c) Addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including returning and relocating fighters

35. The security threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters was further exacerbated in 2017 by the increased number of terrorist fighters returning and/or relocating to their countries of origin or nationality, or to third countries. The number of cases involving such fighters has risen significantly, posing numerous challenges to judicial and law enforcement institutions. UNODC has responded to this phenomenon by addressing the complex and interrelated challenges experienced by national criminal justice systems.

36. To that end, the Office continued its active engagement with Member States under the framework of its initiative on strengthening the legal regime against foreign terrorist fighters in the Middle East and North Africa and South-Eastern Europe. The initiative is aimed at helping States implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) and promoting international cooperation in cases related to foreign terrorist fighters.

37. Under the umbrella of the above-mentioned initiative, five national training activities were held in Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, on the use of intelligence in rule-of-law-based, criminal justice sector-led investigations and prosecutions. In addition, Yemen benefited from a workshop on special techniques for investigating Internet-based terrorist offences, and Morocco hosted a workshop on judicial responses to propaganda, apology and incitement to terrorism.

38. In South-Eastern Europe, three specialized capacity-building activities on normative and administrative challenges related to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters were held in Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, in October 2017, UNODC released a manual on investigation of foreign terrorist fighter cases adapted for judicial training institutes in South-Eastern Europe.

39. Recognizing the transboundary nature of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the Office held five regional workshops on the subject in 2017 (for Central Asia, in Tashkent on 8 and 9 February, and in Astana on 28 February; for South-Eastern Europe, in Vienna from 14 to 16 February; for North Africa, in Tangier, Morocco, from 14 to 16 March; and for South and South-East Asia, in Manila from 7 to 9 November).

40. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNODC, CTED and PAM held a high-level conference for parliamentarians in Rome on 30 and 31 March 2017 on the challenges posed by a preventative criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.

41. UNODC and INTERPOL continued to implement a project for selected Asian countries on identifying and interdicting terrorist fighters through improved access to the I-24/7 Global Police Communications System of INTERPOL.

(d) Countering the use of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes

42. The use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes continues to pose a threat to international security, as terrorists use the latest technology, in particular relative to encryption methods, to incite violence, exchange operational information and perpetrate attacks against public and private targets.

43. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to requesting Governments in this thematic area through national and regional workshops on enacting effective criminal justice measures to efficiently counter the threat posed by the use of such technologies for terrorist purposes.

44. To that end, the Office, in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri, organized study visits to the forensics laboratory in Velletri, Italy, for officials of Morocco from 20 to 24 March 2017 and for officials of Algeria from 27 to 31 March 2017.

45. As prevention and protection are key aspects of the international counter-terrorism effort, the Office held two training events aimed at strengthening skills in using efficient special investigation techniques to counter terrorist activities on the Internet, one in Amman from 16 to 20 May 2017 and one in Cairo from 18 to 20 October 2017.

46. Recognizing the importance of the digital space as a new source of evidence in the prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases, UNODC held a regional capacity-building activity for the Middle East and North Africa on the use of digital evidence in terrorism cases in Rome from 11 to 13 July 2017 and a national work session for Nigeria on 24 October 2017.

(e) Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism

47. UNODC continued to promote the seven international legal instruments dealing with the criminalization of certain acts by non-State actors involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, as well as the implementation of relevant obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

48. To that end, the Office organized a workshop for Iraq on the dual use of chemical materials for terrorism purposes, held in Beirut from 12 to 15 August 2017, which was complemented by related study visits to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), INTERPOL, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and WCO from 9 to 20 October 2017.

49. UNODC also cooperated with Canada in co-chairing an event in Vienna commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and in co-organizing a workshop in Bratislava on legal frameworks in nuclear security, under the aegis of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). Furthermore, the Office participated in other GICNT events, including, the tenth GICNT Plenary Meeting in Tokyo in June 2017 (via video messaging). In addition, UNODC was represented at an OPCW meeting on chemical security held in The Hague in September 2017.

50. UNODC made an instrumental contribution to a legislative drafting workshop on nuclear smuggling organized by the United States of America for Ukraine, held in Kyiv from 24 to 25 July 2017.

(f) Addressing transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences

51. Civil aviation and maritime transport are vital forms of infrastructure often targeted in terrorist attacks. UNODC continued to promote the 11 international legal instruments addressing violent acts against civil aviation and maritime navigation, as well as to provide technical assistance in support of effective criminal justice responses to such terrorist acts.

52. To that end, the Office held a national training event for Egypt in Alexandria, Egypt, from 11 to 13 May 2017 that addressed, inter alia, terrorist attacks targeting tourism and tourism sites. Furthermore, UNODC, together with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), provided assistance to Nigeria in reviewing its civil aviation legislation in Lagos, Nigeria, from 17 to 19 October 2017.

53. Throughout 2017, the Office was in close contact with ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to assess evolving risks and consider the possibility of providing further technical and capacity-building assistance. As a result, UNODC and IMO developed concepts for new regional projects to assist States in countering terrorist risks in the maritime industry.

(g) Providing assistance and support to victims of acts of terrorism

54. In 2017, the General Assembly proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. In that connection, UNODC contributes to international efforts to improve the situation and role of victims by strengthening national criminal justice responses to terrorism.

55. To that end, in 2017, the Office finalized a project for countries of South and South-East Asia on support for and protection of witnesses and victims, and held national workshops on that topic in Bangladesh on 22 and 23 March, in the Philippines on 27 and 28 March and in Indonesia on 30 March. UNODC also participated in a regional workshop on victims of terrorism in Manila in February, organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

56. As part of the Office's assistance relating to victim-centred frameworks, a workshop was held in Amman from 6 to 8 February 2017 focusing on protecting witnesses in terrorism-related cases.

57. Furthermore, UNODC held a national workshop and work session in Abuja from 9 to 11 May 2017 to support Nigeria and countries of the Lake Chad region in addressing acts of sexual violence perpetrated by terrorist groups through the effective prosecution of such crimes and the provision of support to victims.

(h) Addressing gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism

58. There has been growing international awareness of the different ways in which women and men are involved in and impacted by terrorist acts. For example, acts of sexual and gender-based violence targeting women in particular have been found to be part of the modus operandi of certain terrorist groups. Reports also indicate the increasing involvement of women in different forms of terrorist activity. In line with its role in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, UNODC has developed targeted capacity-building activities relating to gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism.

59. The Office initiated a project on gender dimensions in sub-Saharan Africa in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Under the project, UNODC and OHCHR delivered a workshop in Abuja from 9 to 11 May 2017, and have been developing a training module tailored to the Nigerian context. Specialized sessions on gender dimensions were integrated into training workshops for police, prosecutors and the Nigerian Bar Association. The same topic was the subject of a subregional workshop for Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria held in Yaoundé from 19 to 21 July 2017.

60. Furthermore, some of the projects for South and South-East Asia on criminal justice responses to violent extremism conducive to terrorism include components on the role of civil society, communities and families, including women. In Central Asia, UNODC engaged with government officials and civil society to identify the need for gender-focused training.

61. In addition, a UNODC publication on gender dimensions in criminal justice responses to terrorism is to be published in 2018.

(i) Reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism

62. As in previous years, human rights were a central component of all of the Office's technical assistance activities related to countering terrorism. That reflects the principle that human rights norms and good practices are essential to all effective, sustainable counter-terrorism activities that seek to uphold the rule of law.

63. In 2017, the Office launched a new online training course on the topic "Human rights in the context of criminal justice responses to terrorism", which was delivered to judges from the Maghreb region. Capacity-building workshops, including train-the-trainer courses on human rights-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism were delivered for Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. A training course for Lebanon, held in Beirut from 13 to 22 September 2017, included the launch of a manual produced by UNODC on special investigation techniques that respect human rights and the rule of law.

64. Furthermore, UNODC continued its collaboration with Nigerian authorities on strengthening human rights in the criminal justice response to terrorism. That included a train-the-trainer course (Abuja, 16–20 January 2017), followed by three specialized sessions in which the trainees passed on their knowledge to prosecutors and defence lawyers from the north-eastern states of Nigeria (Abuja, 21–23 March 2017, 26–28 September 2017 and 14–16 November 2017). The UNODC-trained trainers also delivered sessions on human rights to police legal advisers.

65. As part of its cooperation with relevant regional organizations, UNODC held a workshop jointly with OHCHR on human rights and counter-terrorism for the secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel (Sahel G-5) and Sahel G-5 national liaison officers in Nouakchott in December 2017.

66. Furthermore, the Office produced a new publication entitled *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: the Role of the Justice System* (launched in January 2018) and supported the Niger in strengthening its capacity to deal with children allegedly recruited by terrorist groups. In March 2017, UNODC also launched a new training manual on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism for Kenya, developed together with Kenyan experts.

(j) Strengthening the criminal justice response to violent extremism conducive to terrorism

67. The prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism has emerged as an important aspect of the fight against terrorism. To that end, UNODC continued developing its expertise and partnerships to mainstream criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism into its capacity-building assistance efforts.

68. During the reporting period, UNODC, in collaboration with CTED and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, developed a new project on managing violent extremist offenders and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons (implementation of which is to begin in 2018), and launched the publication entitled *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons* on 16 January 2017, the first-ever United Nations publication on the subject.

69. Furthermore, the Office supported the development of the national strategy to prevent violent extremism of Mali, and completed a project on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to violent extremism leading to terrorism for the Middle East and North Africa. To that end, a specialized training session for Egypt and Lebanon on countering violent extremism in prisons was held in Beirut from 14 to 16 March 2017.

70. In South and South-East Asia, UNODC continued to implement a project on strengthening criminal justice responses to violent extremism conducive to terrorism. To that end, eight national events were held in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives and the Philippines, as well as a regional workshop in Tokyo in December 2017.

71. In Central Asia, the Office implemented the first phase of a project on strengthening national capacity to prevent violent extremism, and is soon to launch a network to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism for the region.

72. UNODC also made considerable progress on the Education for Justice initiative, which included the development of counter-terrorism educational resources for the use in primary, secondary and tertiary education. After two expert group meetings, held in Nairobi and Singapore in November, training modules were developed for publication in early 2018.

73. On the margins of the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna from 22 to 26 May 2017, the Office also organized a special event to highlight the role of the criminal justice system in preventing violent extremism leading to terrorism.

(k) Developing technical assistance tools

74. Technical assistance tools developed in-house, often in collaboration with expert partners, are an essential part of the Office's capacity-building activities.

75. In addition to the tools and publications mentioned in the thematic sections above, UNODC also completed the revision of module 2 of its Counter-Terrorism Legal Training Curriculum, on the universal legal framework against terrorism, and is soon to release a publication on countering the financing of terrorism: good practices in regional risk assessments.

76. The Office also continued to provide its online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform as an important interactive tool to facilitate training and networking related to capacity-building among practitioners. At the time of drafting of the present report, the Platform had 1,665 users from more than 125 countries. UNODC made considerable progress towards the development and implementation of new and updated online training courses on international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, training 54 North African practitioners. In addition, 14 webinars on various topics related to counter-terrorism were delivered, reaching 119 practitioners worldwide.

77. UNODC continued to maintain its Electronic Legal Resources on International Terrorism database (www.unodc.org/tldb) and the Observatory of Jurisprudence for the Americas on counter-terrorism, its financing and serious related crimes (www.observatoriojurisprudencia.unodc.org.co).

(l) Providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions

78. UNODC supported professional training on counter-terrorism issues through continued and new partnerships with national criminal justice sector training institutions, thus widening the reach of its capacity-building efforts.

79. Throughout the year, the Office participated in and made substantive contributions to terrorism-related events held by the University of Zagreb together with the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, the

International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, the French National School for the Judiciary and the University of Malaga.

80. Train-the-trainer workshops remained an efficient way to ensure that capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC was highly sustainable. To that end, the Office held nine such events for Nigeria, three for Algeria, two for Libya and one for Tunisia, with varying topical emphases, including human rights and the investigation of Internet-based terrorist offences. In delivering the workshops, UNODC collaborated with the National Judicial Institute of Nigeria, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary of Tunisia, the Higher Judicial Institute of Libya, and the Judicial College of Algeria, respectively.

81. In 2017, the Office also assisted judicial and law enforcement training institutes in Mali and the Niger by reviewing their curricula and facilitating the incorporation of terrorism prevention into their syllabuses.

3. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism

82. In today's globalized world, national authorities need to engage in more comprehensive and timely international cooperation to match terrorists' global reach and mobility.

83. In 2017, UNODC delivered a vast array of activities aimed at building the capacity of Member States in cross-border investigations and operations and expanded its portfolio of specialized projects designed to respond to terrorist activities that have a particularly transnational modus operandi, such as those of foreign terrorist fighters. To promote international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal cases related to terrorism, the Office carried out 6 regional and 16 national workshops, and four online interactive discussions.

84. In line with Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), in which the Council called upon all States to designate central authorities in matters related to terrorism offences, UNODC and CTED resumed the implementation of a joint project on building effective central authorities for terrorism-related cases and co-organized a regional meeting for States of South and South-East Asia, held in Maldives from 7 to 9 November 2017. UNODC also provided training on handling mutual legal assistance and extradition requests to central authority units at the national level in Nigeria.

85. Furthermore, UNODC, CTED and the International Association of Prosecutors launched a project on strengthening the capacity of central authorities and counter-terrorism prosecutors in obtaining digital evidence from private communication service providers.

86. The Office also continued to support the Regional Judicial Platform of the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal), and held the annual meeting of the Platform in April 2017.

87. UNODC helped establish the new Multi-Agency Task Force for the Middle East and North African Region with the aim of strengthening international cooperation in terrorism cases, especially those relating to foreign terrorist fighters. To that end, the Office held the first Task Force coordination meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, from 7 to 9 November 2017.

B. Partnerships

88. UNODC continued to foster partnerships with other United Nations entities as well as subregional, regional and international organizations in order to coordinate and, in some cases, jointly implement technical assistance activities.

1. Participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

89. The increasing demand for capacity-building assistance in countering terrorism requires stronger coordination and coherence among United Nations entities in the identification of technical assistance needs and in the development, planning, delivery, monitoring and impact assessment of programmes.

90. UNODC enjoys excellent working relations with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Office fully supports joint planning, programming and technical assistance delivery. It has already jointly developed several successful projects with other entities, including the Office of Counter-Terrorism, CTED, OHCHR and INTERPOL, and looks forward to closer coordination and greater coherence, in line with the existing mandates of each partner entity.

91. UNODC is an active member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, chairs two Task Force working groups, on countering the financing of terrorism (with the Office of Counter-Terrorism) and on legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism (with CTED), and is a Vice-Chair of the CTED-chaired Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism. The Office is a member of all 12 thematic working groups of the Task Force, and UNODC representatives participated in many of the working group meetings, including those on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies; promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism; protection of critical infrastructure, including vulnerable targets, Internet and tourism security; supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism; preventing and responding to terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction; preventing violent extremism and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; foreign terrorist fighters; gender-sensitive approaches to preventing and countering terrorism; and communications.

92. Throughout the year, UNODC contributed substantively to numerous events and projects of the Task Force, including the report of the Secretary-General on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858), an inter-agency expert retreat on assisting Member States in their development of national and regional action plans, and several Task Force briefings for Member States, as well as for the new Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

93. Furthermore, UNODC continued to contribute to the Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre-led initiative on integrated assistance for countering terrorism (I-ACT), and participated in the development of the I-ACT framework for the Sahel G-5 countries, pursuant to a request by the Security Council. In that connection, UNODC representatives participated in events held jointly by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in Dakar and Nouakchott in May, and in a coordination meeting on the implementation of the framework held in October 2017.

2. Cooperation with Security Council bodies dealing with counter-terrorism

94. UNODC maintained its fluid cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) on key counter-terrorism projects. In that context, in 2017, representatives of UNODC and CTC made joint country visits to Argentina, Paraguay, Senegal and Uruguay in March, to Egypt in July and to Germany, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in November to monitor the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent related resolutions. Furthermore, representatives of UNODC attended seven CTC meetings, including a briefing on denying safe haven to terrorists (5 April), and a special meeting and technical consultations on international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in countering terrorism (20 and 21 June).

95. UNODC and CTED continued to jointly implement several projects, including on effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions while respecting

human rights and the rule of law in the Maghreb, the latest phase of a partnership between Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and CTED on strengthening criminal justice responses for multidimensional security (terrorism), as well as an initiative on strengthening the capacity of central authorities and counter-terrorism prosecutors in obtaining digital evidence in matters relating to counter-terrorism.

96. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), concerning ISIL, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Office and the Security Council Committee, including its Group of Experts, strengthened their collaboration by contributing to each other's events and holding regular consultations. Moreover, UNODC maintained its partnership with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) through close contact and by contributing to a training course organized by the Committee for the Asia and Pacific region that was held in August 2017.

3. Partnerships with international, regional and subregional organizations

97. UNODC, including through its Terrorism Prevention Branch, has developed and maintained partnerships with 59 international, regional and subregional organizations, including United Nations system entities, in addition to the collaborations mentioned above. Among them are the following: African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Council of Europe and its Committee of Experts on Terrorism, Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurojust, European Counter Terrorism Centre, European Court of Human Rights, European Parliament, European Union and its European External Action Service, Europol, Financial Action Task Force, Global Centre on Cooperative Security, Global Counterterrorism Forum, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, ICAO, IMO, Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Migration, INTERPOL, IPU, League of Arab States, NATO, OHCHR, OPCW, OSCE, PAM, Radicalization Awareness Network, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, UNESCO, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, WCO, World Bank and World Trade Organization.

98. UNODC and the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations signed a framework agreement on a strategic partnership regarding counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. Furthermore, the Office continued its active participation in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

99. UNODC also expanded its cooperation with INTERPOL. Joint activities included the development and delivery of online learning modules to teach justice officials about INTERPOL tools and services. A joint project on enhancing the capacity of national authorities in selected Asian countries to identify and interdict foreign terrorist fighters was also implemented in 2017 through visits to Mongolia in May, Bangladesh in October, Kazakhstan in November and India in December. UNODC representatives also participated in meetings such as the second INTERPOL Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting for the Middle East and North Africa region, held in the United Arab Emirates in February, as well as the INTERPOL symposium on fingerprint and face recognition, held in Lyon, France, in December 2017.

100. UNODC continued to exchange views with the European Union on counter-terrorism policy and cooperation on technical assistance. The European Union-funded joint projects, which included a project to assist Nigeria in strengthening its criminal justice responses to terrorism, remained at the centre of that important partnership. In addition, UNODC representatives shared their expertise at numerous European Union events, and UNODC invited representatives of the

European Union to an expert group meeting on the identification of good practices in assessing the risks of terrorism financing, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 April 2017.

101. The Office also continued its successful cooperation with OHCHR on strengthening criminal justice responses in line with human rights standards. As part of that work, UNODC and OHCHR held a subregional workshop on gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism in Yaoundé from 19 to 21 July 2017.

102. UNODC collaborated with IAEA on the promotion of the international legal instruments related to nuclear security, including by participating in an IAEA nuclear security information exchange meeting, held in Vienna in April 2017, and an IAEA regional workshop to promote the universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, held in Panama City in November 2017.

4. Cooperation with donors and recipients

103. UNODC worked to foster closer collaboration with national authorities of Member States in receipt of its assistance in order to ensure that technical assistance was being tailored to national and regional counter-terrorism priorities. To that end, UNODC engaged in close consultations with permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations and national counterparts.

104. The Office worked closely with national authorities, including Indonesia, Iraq, Maldives, Mali and the Philippines, in strengthening national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to technical assistance plans for Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Malaysia and Mauritania, and continued to actively participate in the development and implementation of national and regional strategies within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

105. Throughout 2017, UNODC and CTED worked with Nigerian authorities to develop a comprehensive strategy to prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate persons associated with Boko Haram, with a specific focus on criminal justice aspects. In December, an action plan on criminal justice responses to terrorism with a focus on North-East Nigeria was endorsed by Nigerian authorities.

106. Furthermore, the Office held round-table discussions in Dhaka in July with the Government of Bangladesh, with the participation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Regional Coordinator and UNDP, to coordinate counter-terrorism technical assistance delivery on the ground. The meeting resulted in the development of a coherent framework for United Nations-wide joint programme and assistance delivery.

107. The Office also enjoyed invaluable funding support from major donors. Since 2003, pledges and contributions have been made by the following Member States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States. Pledges and contributions have also been made by the following entities: CTED, European Union, IMO, Indian Ocean Commission, International Organization of la Francophonie, INTERPOL, OSCE, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the University of Sussex, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

108. Several States also supported UNODC through the participation of their national experts in its technical assistance activities.

C. Monitoring technical assistance activities and assessing their impact

109. Ensuring the effectiveness, relevance, sustainability and impact of its technical assistance activities ranks among the Office's top priorities. A total of 92.5 per cent of national officials trained in 2017 under the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism reported that the technical assistance they received had met their goals and was relevant to their needs and priorities.

110. UNODC continued to implement the recommendations emanating from the 2015 independent midterm in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, including by tailoring technical assistance to the needs and intake capacity of receiving countries, strengthening the safety and security of staff on the ground and integrating human rights elements into the delivery of technical assistance. The Office also continued to systematically mainstream gender aspects into all counter-terrorism projects. An excellent example was the development of a new project on gender mainstreaming in counter-terrorism work for South and South-East Asia (to be delivered in 2018).

111. Furthermore, the Internal Audit Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted an audit of the management of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism during the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016. The audit team undertook missions to Cairo and Vienna from September to December. The auditors' report, including recommendations, was expected to be available in March 2018.

112. UNODC also finalized the implementation of the key recommendations of the independent project evaluation of the joint Nigeria/European Union/UNODC/CTED partnership project on assisting Nigeria to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism. The evaluation results indicated that the project was highly relevant, responded to the needs identified by the Government of Nigeria, helped to sensitize key agencies to the need to coordinate and cooperate in terrorism-related cases and created awareness of the necessity for organizational change among criminal justice agencies. The Office initiated a follow-up independent evaluation for the second phase of the partnership project for Nigeria, which is to be finalized in 2018. It also issued several recommendations for further enhancing the effectiveness, quality and efficiency of its technical assistance to Nigeria related to counter-terrorism.

III. Priorities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of preventing and combating terrorism

113. UNODC will continue to support Member States' efforts to strengthen their legal regimes and criminal justice systems against terrorism, in full compliance with the rule of law and human rights. The Office offers expertise on immediate terrorist threats such as returning and relocating terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, children recruited and exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, the increasing use of modern information and communication technologies by terrorists, terrorists acting alone or in small cells, the proliferation of improvised explosive devices, terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure, and the criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

114. In particular, the Office will continue to promote the ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism, assist Member States in reviewing their national legislation, build the capacity of criminal justice officials, and promote regional and international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

115. Promoting the ratification of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism that have a low level of ratification or those that have not yet entered into

force, including the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation, the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the Protocol to amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, will remain a priority.

116. UNODC will continue to implement long-term technical assistance programmes and projects tailored to the context of specific countries and regions, in close consultation with other United Nations entities, in particular the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED.

117. To respond to Member States' requests, UNODC will strengthen its capacity-building programmes to support Governments' efforts to efficiently address immediate terrorist threats, such as returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, the use of improvised explosive devices by terrorist groups, terrorists acting alone or in small cells, the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

118. Human rights will continue to be an integral element of all counter-terrorism project proposals. UNODC will also focus on mainstreaming gender dimensions into criminal justice responses to terrorism.

119. In line with its mandate, the Office also intends to further expand its provision of technical assistance for strengthening international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in terrorism-related cases. Subject to the availability of funds, the Office plans to expand its existing database of central authorities by adding a directory of designated focal points for terrorism cases.

120. UNODC also intends to implement technical assistance programmes on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, and on the management of violent extremist prisoners and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons.

121. The Office will also reinforce efforts to develop technical assistance tools. The online training platform and legislative database will be expanded to meet new technical and thematic requirements.

122. UNODC will ensure the visibility of its work by raising awareness of the services it makes available to Member States and promoting better utilization of its available tools, resources and web-based platforms.

123. Implementation of recommendations emanating from the 2017 internal audit and the 2015 independent in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism will be prioritized, in particular those on ensuring the impact and sustainability of its technical assistance, and further streamlining communication and coordination with relevant field offices.

124. The Office will continue to ensure cost efficiency and transparency with respect to donor Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies, including by improving its result-based management approach and the quality of its concept notes and reports.

125. Finally, UNODC intends to further strengthen cooperation among UNODC offices, with other entities of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplication, ensure synergies and contribute to the "One United Nations" approach.

IV. Recommendations

126. The prevention and prosecution of acts of terrorism and other related crimes is of increasingly high priority for Member States. The quickly evolving and transnational nature of the threat of global terrorism requires a coordinated and

regional response. The Office's deployment of experts with highly specific and up-to-date knowledge of criminal justice approaches to preventing and countering the various elements that comprise acts of terrorism is one of the main ways in which the United Nations supports Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in line with the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Continued voluntary support is essential for such efforts.

127. The accession to and ratification and implementation of the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism is a vital first step that Member States can take towards addressing the threat of terrorism, and all Member States are encouraged to do so. Strengthening legislative frameworks and criminal justice and law enforcement capacity and enhancing international judicial cooperation through relevant safeguards and oversight mechanisms, building upon technical assistance provided by UNODC, are also important, in particular in the areas of interdiction, investigation and ensuring there is no safe haven for perpetrators of terrorist acts.